

# March 21, 1925

## *Crown Willamette purchases Leadbetter-Pittock holdings in Camas*

**C**AMAS — Purchase by the Crown Willamette Paper Co. of all the Leadbetter and Pittock estate interests in Camas and vicinity for an estimated half-million dollars was reported today.

The deal includes all of Lady Island, shore land and property west of the city of Camas, all the insold property within the city, all the land on Lacamas Lake, and all the ditch and riparian rights of the Lacamas Water Power Co., which provides water for the paper mill.

Fred W. Leadbetter reserves his summer home on the shore of Lacamas Lake and also the Pittock residence on the lake.

This deal means much for the city and is perhaps the most significant transaction made in recent years. The company will now be able to proceed with development plans, which include

construction of a million-dollar bag plant.

**EPILOGUE** — The huge pulp and paper operation at Camas dates back to the spring of 1883 when D.H. Stearns of Portland persuaded Henry L. Pittock, publisher of The Oregonian, to build a newsprint mill there.

The ensuing corporation bought 2,500 acres, including the lake, and built a mill at the present site. An aqueduct, including a tunnel, was dug 7,000 feet to connect Lacamas Lake with the mill. The first paper was produced in 1884.

The new company was named the Columbia River Paper Co. In 1905, it was combined with the Crown Paper Co., which in 1889 had built a mill on the Willamette River at Oregon City. The new company was named Crown Col-

umbia.

In 1914, after six months of negotiations, Crown Columbia was merged with the Willamette Pulp and Paper Co., and the new firm was called Crown Willamette.

In 1928, Crown Willamette merged with the Zellerbach Corporation, evolving a great pulp and paper empire known as Crown Zellerbach.

The end of Crown Zellerbach came in 1986. C-Z had fought a two-year losing battle with takeover artist Sir James Goldsmith that ended with the sale of the Camas operations, including the paper mill, research facility and non-woven products mill, to James River.

James River is Clark County's largest employer with more than 2,000 workers at the Camas operation.